Draft only. Restricted circulation.

ASIA-PACIFIC

INFORMATION

AND TRAINING PROGRAM

A draft proposal presented by Jose Ramos-Horta

Sydney, 20 March 1989

Enc.: CV, Contact address

Title of project: Asia-Pacific Information and Training Program

(A.P.I.T.P.)

Introduction

This is a 3-year project. The Asia-Pacific Information and Training Program (now on "The Program") is to be created in Sydney, Australia, and to serve as an information, documentation and training centre, and as a news gathering network, on and about the struggles of the minority and indigenous peoples of the Asia-Pacific region, with priority given to those groups whose very existence is at stake.

Staff

Ideally, The Program should be attached to, and with office space in, an educational institution.

It would be directed by an Executive Director (ED) working full-time. Resources permitting, an Administrative officer will be hired.

Ideally, The Program would have a reputed scholar in the field of International Law, with the title of Director, who would provide guidance and supervision to ensure high academic quality of the program and the overall integrity of the institution to which The Program is attached. The ED is a qualified representative of the indigenous peoples, with a proven record in dedication and competence.

Phase One - Training Program

The Program will run short, intensive, practical, training programs coinciding with school holidays, for small groups of selected representatives of the indigenous groups, in such topics as:

* Introduction to Public International Law;
* International Law of Human Rights;
* The UN system: General Assembly, ECOSOC, Human Rights Comission, Sub-Committee on Protection of Minorities and Prevention of Racial Discrimination, Working Group on Minorities, Specialised Agencies (ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR, etc); European Parliament and the European Court of Human Rights;
* Practice of diplomacy; negotiations;
* Media, public relations, lobby.

The goal is to train and motivate young indigenous peoples in an area of vital interest to their struggle as they attempt to gain national, regional and international recognition of their legitimate and legal rights.

No such program exists anywhere in the world, tailored for the specific needs of the indigenous peoples; furthermore, no indigenous group is more neglected and vulnerable, less heard of, than the peoples of West Papua, East Timor, New Caledonia, etc..This has a lot do with the lack of well trained people to present their respective cases to the international media, world bodies, governments.

Sydney is the ideal location for such a program since it is a regional transit point for all the islands and where many thousands of Timorese, Papuans and others live.

As the two superpowers begin a new era of cooperation in settling regional disputes and as they resort more and more to the UN for conciliation, mediation and negotiation, the UN tends to gain more credibility and effectiveness. Representatives of the indigenous peoples should be able to profit from this new international climate inasmuch as human rights become less politicized and conflicts tend to be seen less and less as an East-West dispute.

The Program will undertake to help representatives of indigenous peoples prepare submissions to the UN and its Specialized Agencies; and to publish occasional papers, of no more than two to four pages, for distribution to the UN Member States in New York and Geneva.

Phase Two - Asia/Pacific News

A news service, to be called "Asia/Pacific News", should be created in the longer term, as part of The Program, which would operate as a regular news service, gathering information on/about peoples and events in the region. Staffed by a professional journalist, using the same resources available to the Program, he/she would collect, treat and dissiminate all available information, of public interest, by way of telex or fax to local papers and news services. Efforts will be made to network with other Third World news services, such as IPS and PANA, in the spirit of North-South and South-South cooperation.

Asia/Pacific Nesw should begin operatations by January 1991 with one experienced journalist, working part-time.

In the course of 1989 and 1990, contacts and agreements will be sought with other news services and newspapers, around the world, NGOs, UNESCO for exchange of services.

Benefit-Cost Analysis

Headtitle..... 1st Year .....Value (A$)

1. Benefits

1.1. Expected donations Australia.....25,000.00

1.2. Expected donations outside Australia.....25,000.00

1.3. Total.....50,000.00

2. Initial investment

2.1.1. Purchase of a PC, 20 MB, high resolution colour monitor..... 2,000.00

2.1.2. Laser-jet printer..... 2,000.00

2.1.3. Software..... 1,000.00

2.1.4. 1 photocopy machine..... 6,000.00

2.1.5. Fax..... 1,500.00

2.1.6. Total.....12,500.00

3. Running costs

3.1.1. 1 full-time salary.....24,000.00

3.1.2. Office supplies..... 3,000.00

3.1.3. Fax..... 3,400.00

3.1.4. Telephone..... 2,400.00

3.1.5. Mail..... 3,000.00

3.1.6. Utilities..... 1,200.00

3.1.7. Maintenance.....1,500.00

3.1.8. Total.....35,500.00

2nd year

1. Benefits

1.1. Expected donations in Australia.....25,000.00

1.2. Expected donations outside Australia..... ....25,000.00

1.3. Total.....50,000.00

2. Running costs

2.1. One full-time salary.....28,000.00

2.2. One part-time salary..... 8,000.00

2.3. Office supplies..... 4,000.00

2.4. Fax..... 4,000.00

2.5. Telephone..... 2,700.00

2.6. Mail..... 2,800.00

2.7. Utilities..... 1,000.00

2.8. Maintenance..... 500.00

2.9. Total.....50,000.00

3rd year

1. Benefits

1.1. Donations in Australia.....30,000.00

1.2. Donation outside Australia.....30,000.00

1.3. Total.....60,000.00

2. Running costs

2.1. One full-time salary	29,000.00
2.2. One part-time salary	8,000.00
2.3. One part-time salary	8,000.00
2.4. Office supplies	4,000.00
2.5. Fax	4,000.00
2.6. Telephone	2,700.00
2.7. Mail	2,600.00
2.8. Utilities	1,200.00
2.9. Maintenance	500.00
2.10. Total	60,000.00